image

No. 1

the DEViANT

A Christmas Story by

JAMES TYNiON iV and JOSHUA HiXSON

with HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

the DEVIANT

A Christmas Story

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the DEVIANT created by
JAMES TYNION IV & JOSHUA HIXSON

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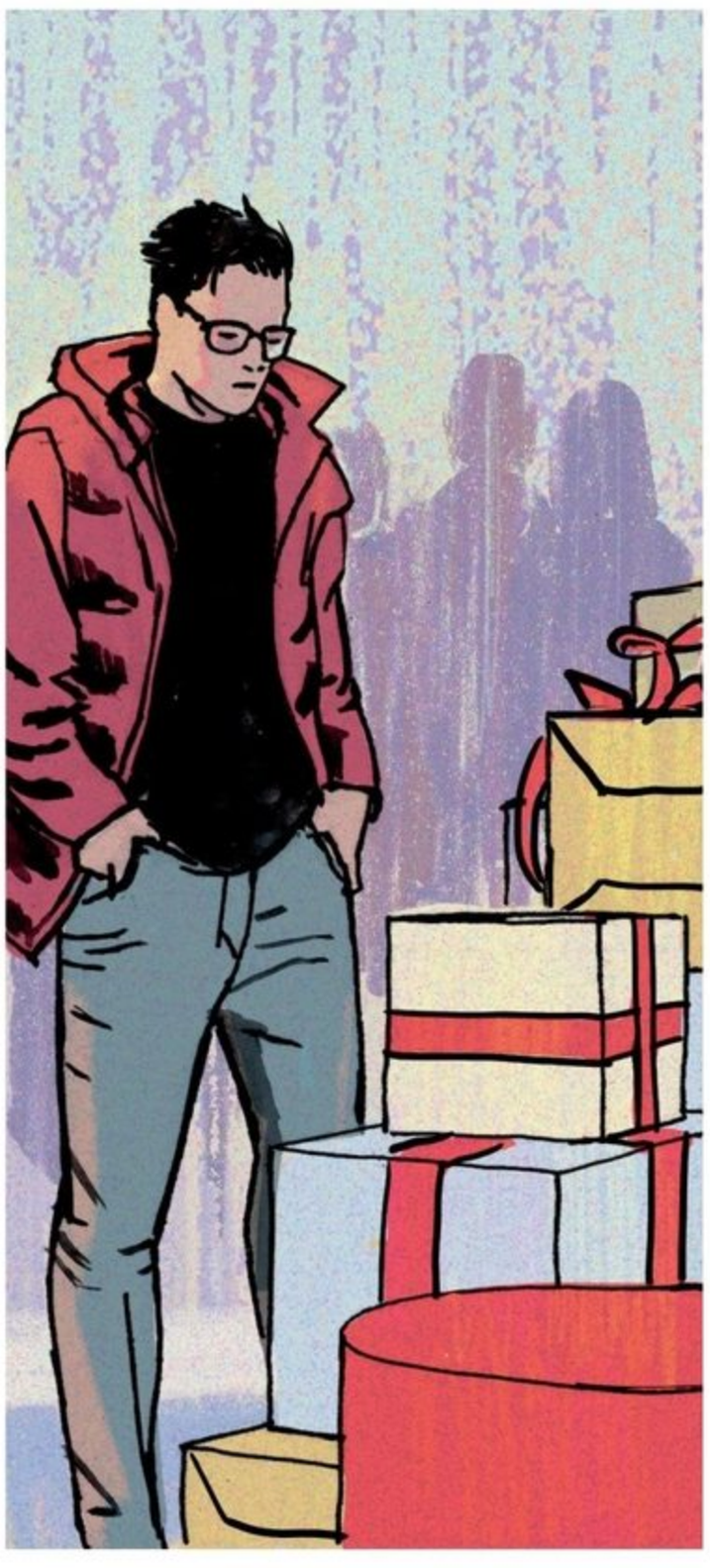
CHICAGO

DECEMBER 2023



ARE YOU THERE, MICHAEL?

I'M SORRY?

I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF YOU'RE HERE WITH ME.

YEAH, I'M HERE.

TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

I'M THINKING ABOUT WRAPPING PAPER.

I WAS THINKING THAT I CAN'T WRAP A PRESENT TO SAVE MY LIFE.

I MEAN, YEAH. YOU'RE TERRIBLE. YOU ALWAYS HAVE ME DO IT.

YEAH.

I WORKED AT A BORDERS BOOKS IN HIGH SCHOOL. AND ON THE FIRST DAY, THEY WALKED ME THROUGH HOW TO WRAP THINGS.

AND LIKE, I REMEMBER THAT. I REMEMBER BEING TAUGHT.

FOR A YEAR, I COULD DO IT REALLY WELL. WRAP PRESENTS WITH THESE NICE, NEAT CORNERS.

OF COURSE, IT WAS BOOKS. THEY'RE ALL THESE LITTLE RECTANGLES. BUT NOW... IT ALWAYS COMES OUT WRONG.

EVEN WHEN I FOCUS ON IT, EVEN WHEN I GIVE IT EVERY PART OF MY BRAIN, I CAN'T MAKE THE DIFFERENT PIECES LINE UP.

AND HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?

LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.

the DEVIANT

A Christmas Story by

JAMES TYNION IV and JOSHUA HIXSON

with HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

MILWAUKEE
DECEMBER 1973

OH, DARN IT...

AGAIN?

NOW DON'T YOU START, EDDIE. I'LL GET ENOUGH OF THAT FROM GUS WHEN I GET BACK HOME.

THANK GOODNESS.

GRRGGL

HELLO... IS ANYBODY THERE?

GRGGGLLLL

EDDIE!
IS THAT
YOU?

sale

MACYS
GRRRGGL

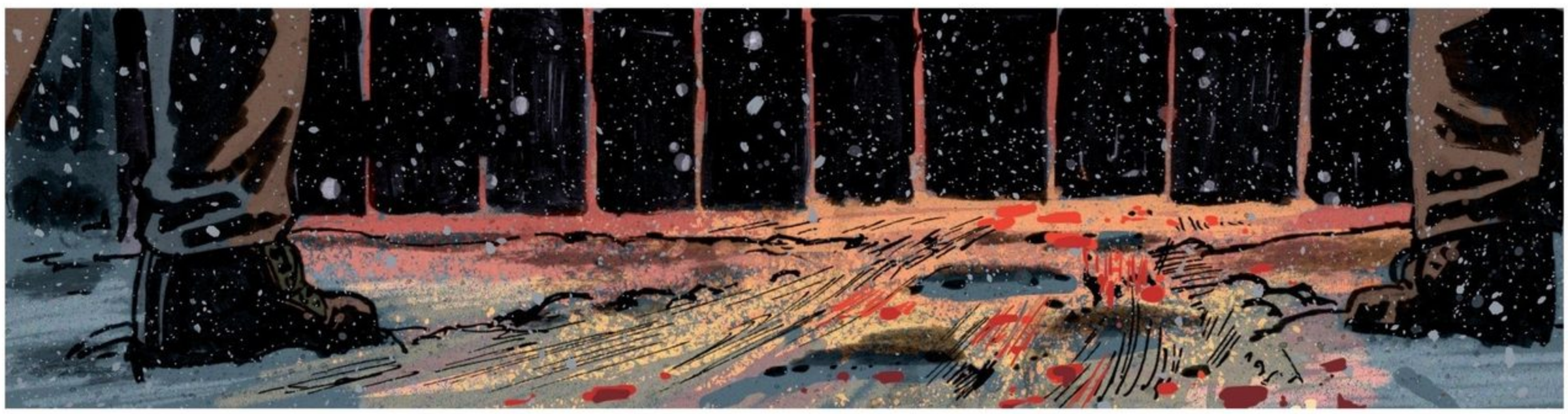
EDDIE?

GRRGH

THEY THINK HE'S IN THERE?

NEIGHBOR SAW STRANGE LIGHTS AND MOVEMENT. AND THERE WERE SCREAMS.

ALL RIGHT. WE MOVE IN QUIET.



JESUS CHRIST.

W-WAIT...

PAUL?! WHAT THE HELL--

I *SEE* THE FUCKER. HE'S MAKING A *RUN* FOR IT!

FREEZE!

PAUL, GET BACK HERE! WE CAN'T SEE YOU IN ALL THIS WHITE!

DON'T BE A FUCKING COWARD. WE CAN GET THE BASTARD!

UHH--

HELL...

HKK HRRR

HKK HRRR HKK

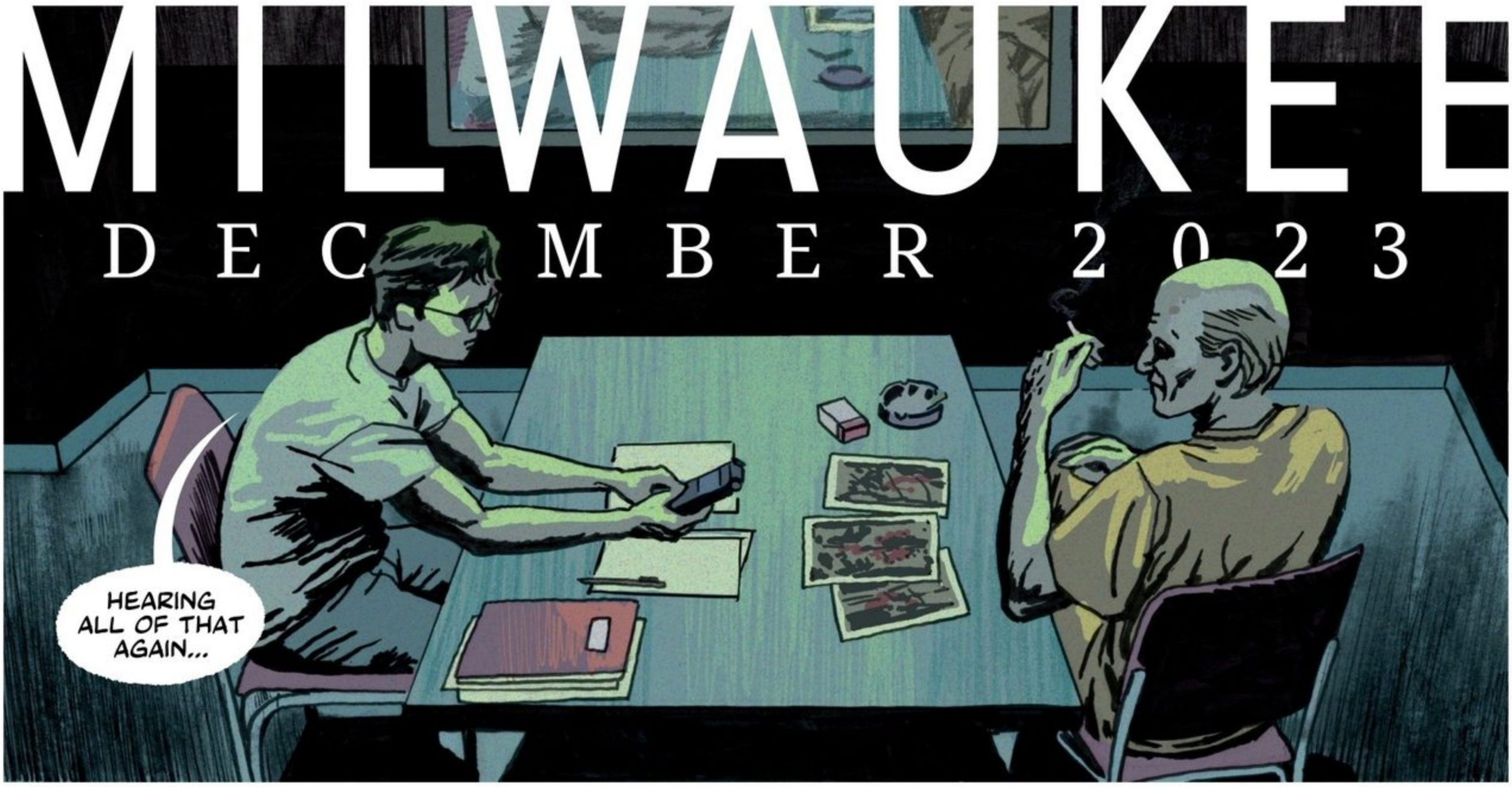
HAA HKK HRRR

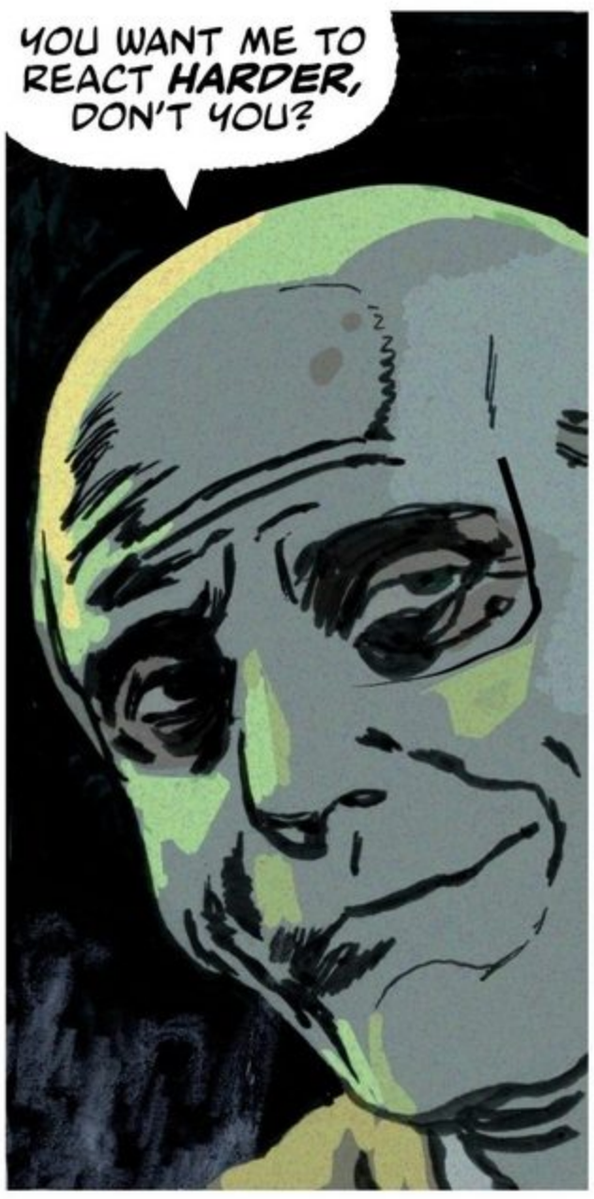
HRRR HRRR

HKK
HRRRG

MILWAUKEE

DECEMBER 2023





THIS OLD QUEEN IS ALL DRIED UP, I'M AFRAID.

YOU KNEW THE BOYS.

I SUPPOSE THAT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU'D DEFINE "KNEW."

THERE'S ALWAYS A BIT OF A LURID UNDERTONE TO THAT WORD, ISN'T THERE?

I WORKED WITH THEM EVERY DAY. SO YES, I KNEW THEM CASUALLY ENOUGH.

DID I ***KNOW*** THEM IN THE BIBLICAL SENSE?

NOT THAT THE BIBLE CARES MUCH FOR YOU OR ME.

EXCUSE ME?

DEAR, I'M NOT BLIND.

OR DEAF.

I WAS NOT HAVING SEX WITH EITHER OF THEM. I WASN'T HAVING SEX WITH ANYBODY.

I THINK THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PART OF THE PROBLEM.

HOW DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE? BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR ANGLE. YOU'RE NOT LEADING ME ANYWHERE.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME KIND OF WRITER.

I AM.

BUT YOU'RE NOT A JOURNALIST. YOU JUST WRITE LITTLE MADE-UP THINGS.

I WRITE COMIC BOOKS.

OH LORD, DELIVER ME.

WHAT, YOU'RE GOING TO DO THE STORY OF A CANDY-COLORED CHRISTMAS KILLER, GOING HEAD-TO-HEAD AGAINST SOME LAWMAN IN A SILLY COSTUME?

THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF COMIC BOOK I WRITE. NOT ANYMORE.

YOU SHOULD. I BET THERE'D BE MORE MONEY IN IT.

YOU'D BE SURPRISED, THESE DAYS.

I HAVEN'T BEEN OUTSIDE OF THIS PRISON IN HALF A CENTURY, BUT VERY LITTLE SURPRISES ME. I'M A HARD OLD FAGGOT.

RANDALL, I'M SORRY IF I OFFENDED YOU.

I DON'T OFFEND EASY, EITHER. I DO GET BORED. I GOT BORED ENOUGH TO ACCEPT YOUR REQUEST TO MEET.

BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE ***MORE*** BORING THAN SITTING IN A COLD DARK ROOM, THEN THIS IS GOING TO BE OUR LAST CONVERSATION.

YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE AN ANGLE. EVERYONE HAS AN ANGLE. HOW DID YOU PITCH ME TO YOUR EDITORS?

I'M FUNDING THE BOOK MYSELF. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THERE IS A BOOK BEFORE I GO AROUND PITCHING IT.

YOU'RE DANCING AROUND AN ANSWER.

WHY ARE YOU HERE, MICHAEL?

THAT'S HIS HOUSE.

WHOSE HOUSE?

THE DEVIANT KILLER.

THE DEVIANT KILLER?

YEAH. HE WAS LIKE... A MALL SANTA OR SOME-THING.

AND HE WAS FUCKING ALL OF THE ELVES WORKING IN SANTA'S WORKSHOP. THESE TEENAGE BOYS.

HE WAS... HE WAS HAVING SEX WITH THE BOYS?

THEY FOUND A SHOEBOX FULL OF PICTURES OF THE TEENAGE BOYS HE KILLED.

HE'D TAKE THEM IN THE SHOWER AT WORK AND WHACK OFF TO THEM AT HOME.

BUT THEN THAT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR HIM, SO HE KIDNAPPED THEM AND TOOK THEM TO HIS MURDER BARN.

THEN HE CUT THEM IN PIECES AND FUCKED ALL THE NEW HOLES HE MADE IN THE BODIES.

"AND THEN WRAPPED THEIR PARTS UP LIKE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR THE POLICE TO FIND."

KSSH

AND THE FUCKED-UP FAGGOT DID THE WHOLE THING DRESSED UP LIKE SANTA.

I SHIT YOU NOT.

I GREW UP IN FOX POINT. ONLY A FEW MILES FROM THE HOUSE YOU WERE ARRESTED IN.

THE FIRST TIME I EVER HEARD THAT THERE WERE MEN OUT THERE WHO HAD SEX WITH OTHER MEN, WAS HEARING ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS MASSACRE.

THAT'S FUNNY.

HOW IS THAT FUNNY?

FOR ME IT WAS GEIN. NOT THAT DEAR OLD ED WAS AN ACTUAL FRIEND OF DOROTHY'S. HE JUST WANTED TO KILL AND FUCK HIS MOTHER, DIDN'T HE?

BUT HE WAS SOME KIND OF SEX PERVERT. SO HE WAS AS QUEER AS THEY CAME TO THE BOYS ON THE SCHOOLYARD.

IT WAS A RELIEF, WASN'T IT? ON SOME LEVEL.

A RELIEF?

YOU WERE A LITTLE QUEER BOY AND YOU LIKED TO HUG YOUR FRIENDS A BIT TOO MUCH. YOU LIKED THEIR TOUCH.

YOU LIKED THE WAY THEY SMELLED. YOU LIKED WHEN YOU COULD TRICK THEM INTO WRESTLING YOU. ANY LITTLE INTIMACY. ANY CHANCE TO GET CLOSE.

AND YOU START GETTING THE SENSE THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU. THAT THE LITTLE FEELINGS YOU'RE FEELING ARE ONE-WAY.

AND THEY'RE ALL LOOKING IN ANOTHER DIRECTION.

THEN YOU FIND OUT THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO ARE JUST AS WRONG AS YOU ARE.

AND NO MATTER WHAT HORRIBLE THING THEY DID, YOU KNOW THAT YOU AREN'T THE ONLY MONSTER IN THE WORLD.

IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE, MICHAEL?

YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN THE WORLD?

THAT'S NOT... NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M HERE TO DO.

YOU'RE SO SOFT.

THAT'S NOT AN INSULT. IT'S NICE.

IT'S NICE THAT THE WORLD LETS MEN KEEP THEIR SOFTNESS MORE THAN IT USED TO.

I LOVED THOSE BOYS. THE WORLD HADN'T GOTTEN AROUND TO MAKING THEM MEAN.

AND THEY WERE SO BEAUTIFUL.

THEY WOULD CRY WHEN THEY WERE SAD OR OVERWHELMED, AND THEY WOULD HUG EACH OTHER ON A BAD DAY.

THE SHORTER ONE, DAN LEWELLYN. HE HAD THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VOICE. HE SANG LIKE AN ANGEL.

THEY DIDN'T MAKE MUCH TIME FOR ME. I WAS THEIR MANAGER, AND A GOOD DECADE OLDER THAN THEM. AND THERE WAS SOMETHING A LITTLE ***FUNNY*** ABOUT ME.

YOU KNOW?

BUT THEY WOULD JOKE AND PLAY WITH EACH OTHER. THEY WERE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER IN THAT WAY THAT ONLY BOYS FALL IN LOVE.

NOT A ROMANTIC CRUSH. NOT LIKE THE ONES I HAVE OR YOU HAVE, BUT SOMETHING CHASTE AND BEAUTIFUL.

IF THEY HAD LIVED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SMACKED OUT OF THEM IN A YEAR OR TWO, BY SOME COACH OR SOME TEACHER.

BUT I JUST WANTED TO LET IT BLOSSOM.

I TOOK PICTURES THAT I SHOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN. I JUST WANTED TO... IMAGINE THAT I WAS CLOSER TO THEM.

BUT I NEVER HURT THEM.

I NEVER WOULD HAVE.

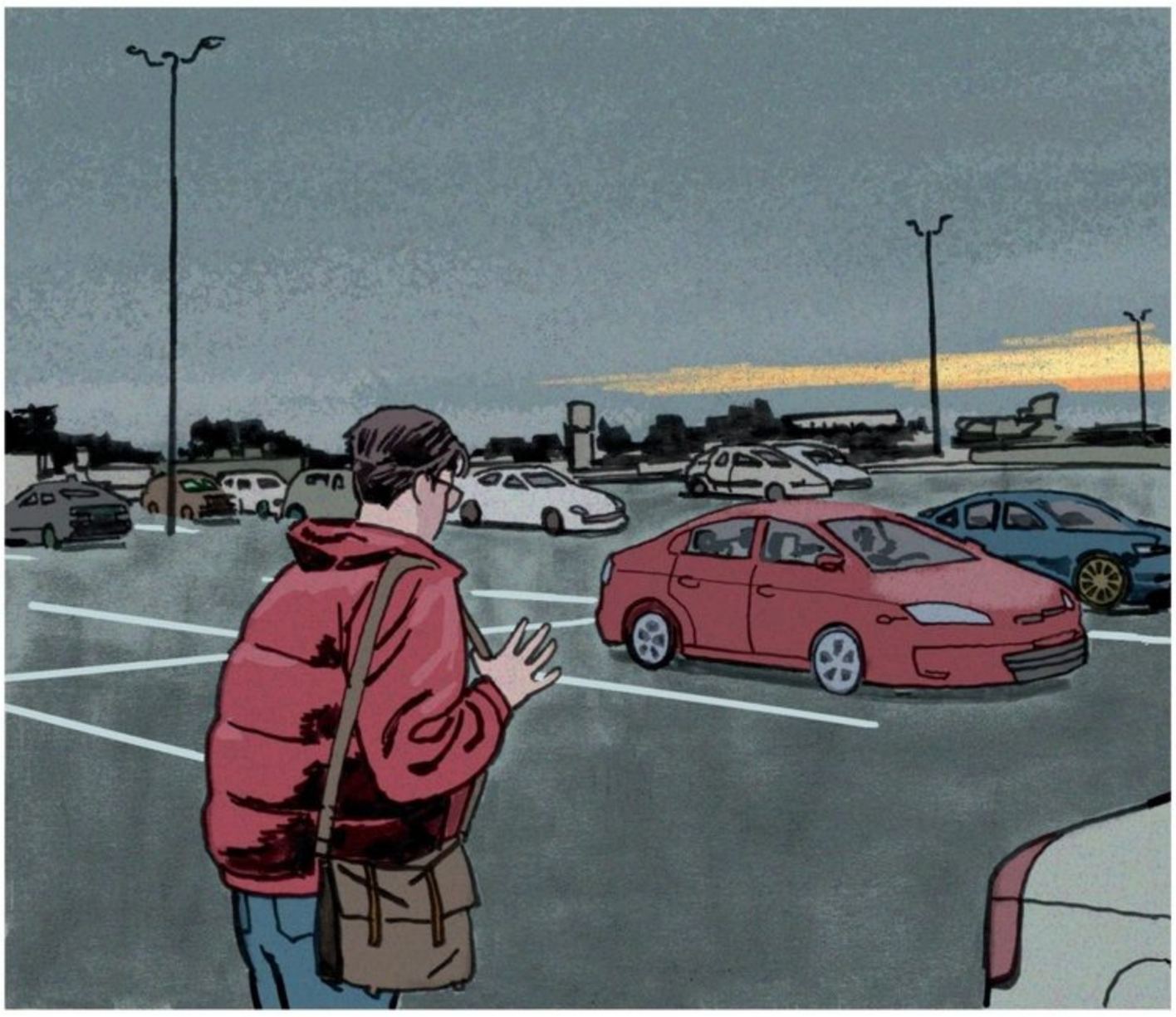
BUT THE PICTURES WERE ENOUGH TO PUT ME AWAY. THE MONSTROUS FAGGOT WHO COMMITTED THE CHRISTMAS MASSACRE.

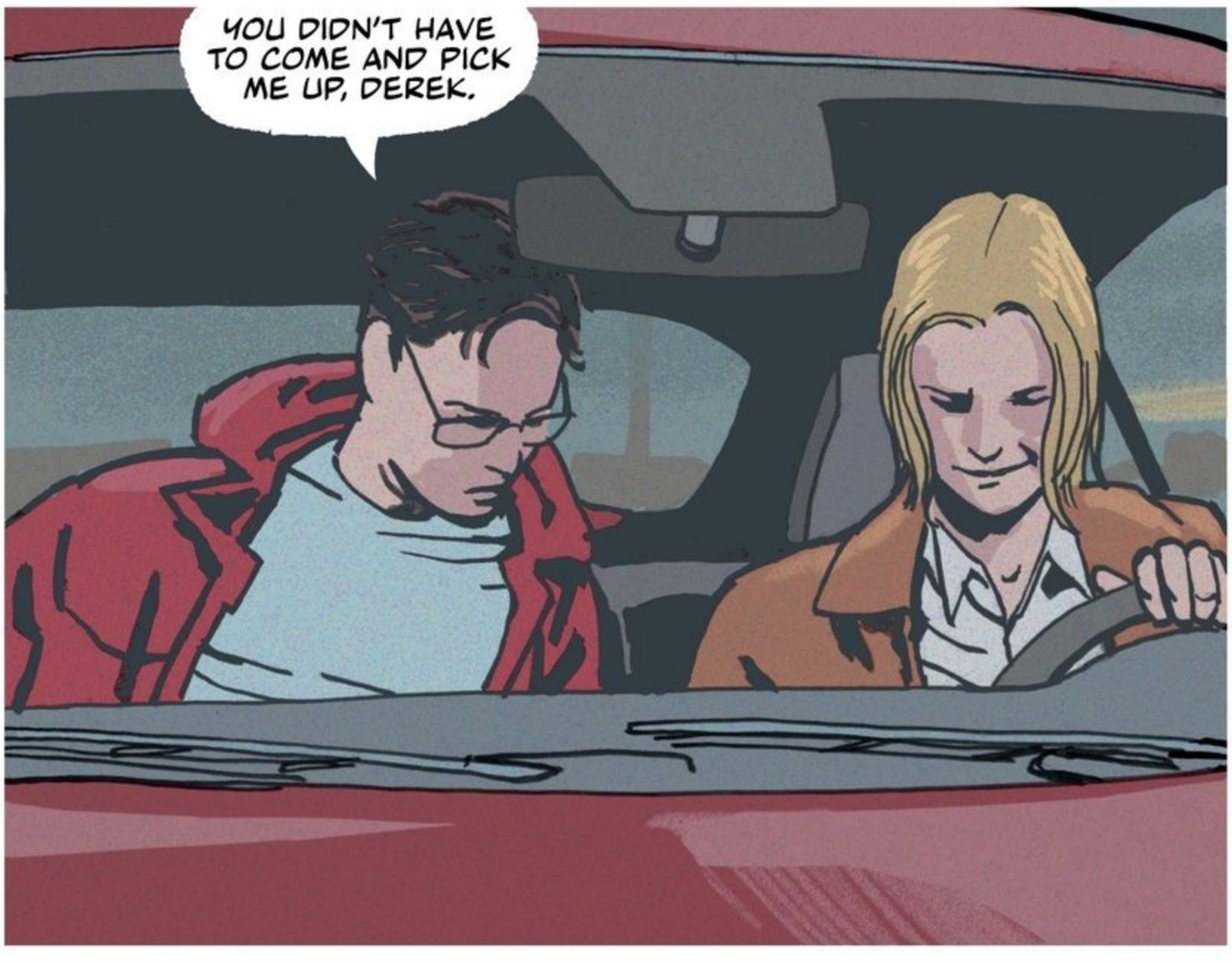
PEOPLE HAVE SPENT THE LAST FIFTY YEARS TELLING STORIES ABOUT ME. I'VE READ MOST OF THEM. THE GUARDS EVEN LET ME WATCH SOME OF THE TV SPECIALS ON THEIR PHONES.

SO, I WANT TO KNOW. MICHAEL...

...WHAT'S THE STORY *YOU* WANT TO TELL ABOUT ME?

STAFF
ENT




YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME AND PICK ME UP, DEREK.

OF COURSE, I DID!

DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?

NOT YET, I DON'T THINK. I'M STILL ABSORBING IT ALL.

WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

FAMILIAR.

FAMILIAR?

"YEAH.

"FAMILIAR."

4 WEEKS 'TIL CHRISTMAS!

RISTMAS TREE FARM

CHICAGO

DECEMBER 2023

JESUS, I SAID I'M SORRY! SOME LITTLE BRAT PUKED ALL OVER THE MODEL TRAIN SET. THEY HAD ME STAY AFTER TO CLEAN THE FUCKING THING.

I THINK THE MANAGER'S PISSED OFF I DIDN'T INVITE HIM TO MY BIRTHDAY PARTY LAST WEEK.

I KNOW, RIGHT? HE'S IN FUCKING LOVE WITH ME.

EXIT

LOOK, I'LL TAKE A LYFT, OKAY? IT'LL TAKE ME TWENTY MINUTES. LET ME PUT MY CLOTHES ON.

OH, SHUT UP.

OH GOD.
I STINK.

EXIT

HKK
HRR

IS SOMEBODY THERE?

EXIT

EXIT

HKK HRRR HKK

OKAY, CUT THAT THE *FUCK* OUT. IT'S NOT *FUNNY*.

EXIT

HKK HRRR

EXIT

HKK HRRRR

HKK HRRRR

TO BE
CONTINUED

WORLDTR33™

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APRIL 2023_
IN STORES NOW

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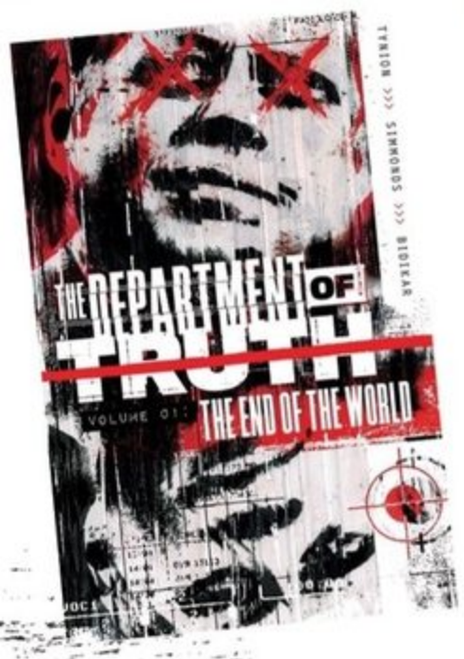
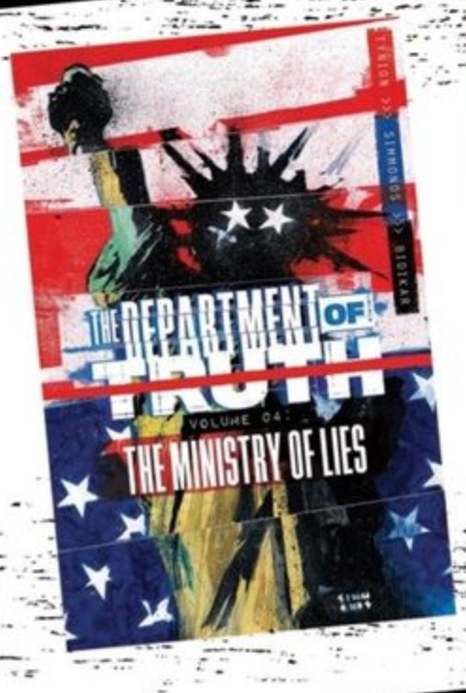
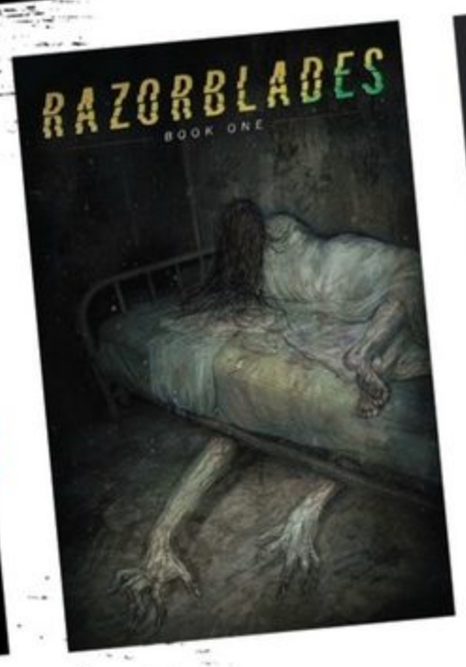
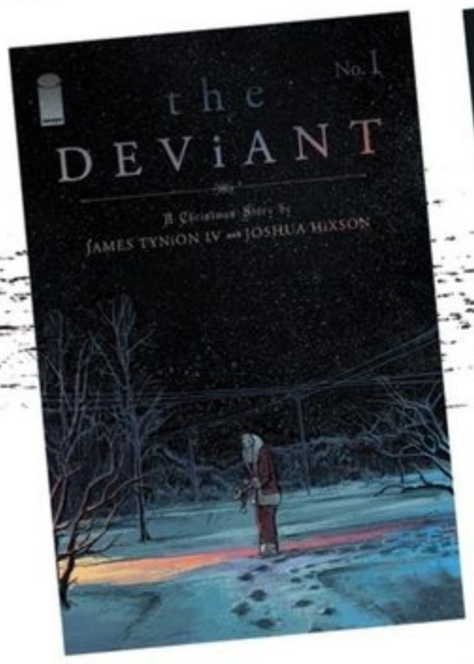






IN STORES THIS WINTER



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RATED M / MATURE

ISSUE ONE
COVER A

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